

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toru OCHIAI and Shoei NAKAMURA

Application No.: Rule 53(b) Continuation of 09/898,015 filed July 5, 2001

Filed: March 12, 2004

Docket No.: 105664.02

For: IMAGE READING DEVICE, METHOD AND PROGRAM USING INFRARED  
LIGHT DETECTION TO CORRECT FOR DEFECTIVE PIXELS (AS AMENDED)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Specification;** and

**Remarks.**